



CITY OF VERNONIA

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JUN 14 1999

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

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May 11, 1999

Chairman William E. Kennard
Office of the Secretary
TW-A306
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington D. C. 20554

Dear Chairman Kennard,

The City of Vernonia would like to express our support for FCC's effort to establish rules authorizing the development of low power, microradio broadcasting stations.

The City of Vernonia is located in the midst of the coast range mountains in Northwest Oregon. In 1996, the City experienced a devastating flood that damaged over 50 percent of the homes located within the valley. To make matters worse, both of the roads leading to and from town were flooded and the City was completely surrounded by floodwaters.

The only communication channel available to the outside world was via ham radio. Without this emergency communication, Vernonia would have been completely isolated. All radio communication came from the Portland area. Communication within the community was non-existent. Listening to a local broadcast to determine where or when to evacuate, where emergency supplies could be obtained, or, about other critical information needed during an emergency, was not available.

Even during normal day to day life, having a local LPFM service would be an invaluable asset to our rural community. Being located in a valley makes it difficult to capture other FM radio stations. In addition, having the capacity to communicate within the local community via radio would help increase citizen involvement and help build a more healthy, vibrant community.


If FCC authorizes low power microradio broadcasting, we intend to develop a local radio station. We believe that a small community non-profit could own and operate a very successful LPFM service. This service could be managed by a small staff as well as volunteers from the local schools, Fire Department and others from within the

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In summary, we would encourage FCC to adopt rules that allow the operation of new, low powered LPFM broadcast radio stations.

Respectfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Art Parrow". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Art" being more prominent than the last name "Parrow".

Art Parrow
Mayor
City of Vernonia